SILVERTHORN

The Silverthorne Home near Cooksville if one of the most interesting as well as one of the best preserved frame houses in the Province. Except for a period following the late war when it was let to strangers it has been in Silverthorne hands since 1815 when it was built. The mother of the present owner, Mr. W. S. Romain, was a Silverthorne and in his hands one feels certain that no unsympathetic alteration will be made and that in time both the structure and the furniture will be restored to the condition in which it was left by Joseph Silverthorne the pioneer.

Joseph Silverthorne married in 1807 Jane Chisholm of Queenston Heights. His wife was 15 years of age at the time of her marriage and the plucky couple set sail on their wedding day for York in a gale of wind, the going lasting only two and a half hours. Their honeymoon was spent for a time in a tavern in York kept Stiles but the adventure of making a home soon c

their attention and we next hear of their moving up the Etobicoke and finally settling on Lot 11 N. Dundas St. Township of Toronto.

Their first house was a log one built in 1807, but in 1815 Joseph Silverthorne was able to build the fine frame house which stands today. A verandah shades the South and West elevations and is an excellent example of the best period of lattice work. The old garden has disappeared and the present growth of lilacs and great trees makes it impossible to give an adequate view of the front. The well lit basement kitchen is one of the most complete in the Province. The great fireplace with its cranes and pots is in its original condition, the massive smoked oak ceiling joists and white walls (now unfortunately red) all suggest the hospitality for which this family was famous. It is quite the most interesti colonial kitchen in Ontario. The drawing room abov its more ornate mantel and flanking arches expre charm and dignity of the ladies of the family

See letter from Rev. Geo. H. Glover, assiniboia 30 July 1936

Silverthorne

I have a fairly good history of the Silverthorne family, but lack information re the Alloa branch. Can you supply this and show the connection with the Cheny Hill Silverthorns?

My information is -

Lot 18 con. 4 West, twp. Chinguacousy.

Patent 10 Jan. 1828 George Wilson 100 acres.

10 Jan. 1829 Jacob Silverthorne purchase

3rd. Son of Jonathan

a Mahlon.

12 July 1849 Mahlas Silverthorne, N½ of E½ 50 acres.

my grandfather.

15 Oct. 1873 Aaron Silverthorn 100 acres.

Uncle.

7 Dec. 1904 John C. Silverthorn, 100 acres.

Cousin.

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The 1857 Directory shows Jonathan Silverthorn as being on this lot (lot 18 con. 4 W. Chinguacousy). Would this be the Jonathan who served in the War of 1812?

Yes. Son of Thomas who came out from England in 1735. He was born Feb. 11/1772.

Are any of your relatives in the County of Peel Orangemen? If so, will you please give me their names and addresses in order that I might write them?

If you write Wm Taylor, R.R.1. Brampton he will give you this information or put you in touch with those who can.

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GRANT TO Jonathan Silverthorne

of the Township of Woodhouse

in the County of Norfolk

in the District of London FARMER, as a Private in a flank Company of the 1st Regiment of Norfolk Militia

In the Township of Nissouri

in the County of Oxford

in the District of London being

the W. pt. Lot 22, Con. 14, containing 100 acres.

General Order in Council for 100 acres 19 Jan. 1820.

Ticket of Location 13 June, 1820.

M. 615.

SILVERTHORN

The Silverthorns can be traced back to Oliver Silverthorn (c1680-1746) who came to America about 1700 (possibly earlier). The family came from Steeple Ashton in Wiltshire County England and in the records of that parish many Silverthorns are mentioned.

Earliest known ancestors lived near Glastonbury in 1327. The name is said to have been adopted originally by a yeoman living near Weary-all Hill, Somerset, where the Abbey of Glastonbury was founded by Joseph of Arimithea about 63.A.D. The tale goes that, having been sent by St. Philip from Gaul to Britain on a missionary voyage, Joseph with eleven companions came to Weary-all Hill, and rested there. He thrust a thorn stick he was carrying into the ground, and being left there, it took root and grew, but instead of flowering as other hawthorn trees, it flowered twice a year, at Christmas and in May. This tree flourished until 1653, when it was cut down by one of Cromwell's Roundheads. Slips had been taken from it, however, and the species is still cultivated about Glastonbury. Once it had been known as the Silverthorn tree, and the yeoman living near it acquired the name from it.

Thomas lived in New Jersey. Loyal to ~~British~~ Britain during Revolution and although he enlisted "the affair at Trenton" prevented him from joining British army. Was heavily fined, imprisoned and put in irons. His son John had his farm in New Jersey confiscated but Thomas died before he could emigrate in 1786. His wife, Johanna Newmann, their son John, and John's wife Esther Corwin and their 1 year old son Joseph emigrated to Upper Canada in 1786.

(Esther Corwin was the daughter of Joseph Corwin and Elizabeth Hixon of Hopewell, N.J. Joseph died in Canada after 1790.)

John received land at Queenston. He filed petition to have father's name placed on U.E. list. Council decided Thomas was not a U.E. and that list was closed, but decision evidently reversed for John received grant in Stamford twp. as son of U.E. His mother, Johanna, petitioned for land also. She received 200 acres in Stamford in 1801. The widow Silverthorn's house is mentioned in Stamford in 1801 and John Silverthorn's in 1803 - not near his mother's as far as can be made out (Cruikshank's Documents of Welland).

According to Mrs. Jenkinson of Sault Ste Marie, ~~xxxxxx~~ John, his wife Esther Corwin and his mother Johanna Newman, came to Toronto township in 1810. As early as 1807 John's name appears with that of Philip Cody on an affidavit to the effect that land was cleared and fenced on Lot 11 Toronto N.D.S. This land was a Patent to his son Joseph on the same day.

Also in 1809 John 's name is shown as purchasing (although no price given) 200 acres of Lot 4 Con.1 S.D.S. This land was originally a U.E. Grant to Henry Feero.

Yet, in December 1809, the petition of the Magistrates and inhabitants of Niagara who were present at the ~~xxxx~~ trial and conviction of John Silverthorn, show him as being, at that time, of the ~~xxx~~ township of Stamford.

It would appear then that John, along with Cody and Robinet must have been sort of agents. ~~xx~~ in procuring land for new settlers from that district settling in Peel.

On the other hand, Joseph, son of John, and his wife Janet Chisholm, came to Toronto township

in 1807 and settled on Lot 11 Con.1 Toronto N.D.S. They found Philip Cody already established on Lot 10 S.D.S. and took shelter in his cabin until their own was ready.

John was one of the first trustees of the Community Church and [illegible] the acre of land (on Lot 10 Con.1 N.D.S.) for the school and church is shown in his name in 1816.

We have record of 10 children in John's family. Joseph was the eldest (1785-1879), and his wife, Jane Chisholm (1791-[illegible]) was the daughter of John Chisholm, U.E. Jane located a U.E. grant in Chinguacousy. Jane was only 16 years of age when she married Joseph. They crossed Lake Ontario in a small vessel named the "Hunter" owned and sailed by John Kendrick. This was on 18th April. "At little York they found so much ice that the Captain feared he could not get through, but did not like to give up, beaten, or to stay outside the bay all night, so he forced his way through the ice, ... The only tavern in York at that time was kept by Dr. Stiles. Here they stayed over-night".

m Aaron (1789-1872) was the next son. He married Mary Custead (1788-1853) sister of William Custead nursery-man of Toronto township who married the daughter of Philip Cody. Mary's brother Daniel married Mary Robinette. Aaron's eldest son Francis (1815-1894) married Susannah Mercer aunt of General Mercer, and a prominent Peel family). His second wife was Mary Cheyne (one of the Cheynes of Peel). His 3rd wife was Sarah Ann Pimlott. Jennie Silverthorn, dtr. of Francis and Mary Cheyne, married Wm. John Glassford, son of Rev. Peter Glassford.

Newman Silverthorn was also the son of Aaron. He was born 1827. While tramping through the bush in search of timber (he was a lumberman and miner) he found that the toes of boots soon wore out owing to the thick undergrowth. He conceived the idea of protecting them with a piece of tin cut from a can carried in his pack, hence his invention of the copper toe so popular in the earlier days. He secured a patent and made a fortune. His son was Dr. Gideon Silverthorn, well-known St. Michael's hospital surgeon. Dr. Gideon left $5,000.00 for the upkeep of Dixie Cemetery where his parents were buried. SEE ITEM RE CONTROVERSEY RE THIS.

Thomas (1789-1834) (must have been a twin of Aaron). He kept an inn in Toronto township. Served in War of 1812 in company commanded by Capt. Abraham Nelles and rec. 100 acres for his services. His daughter Caroline married James Alderson. Hence the Alderson connection.

We have record of 12 children of Joseph and Jane. Among them Elizabeth Rebecca who married Pierre Zamor Romaine, The old homestead "Cherry Hill" was left to Stanislas Romain a grandson of Pierre Zamor. It was left him by Augusta Cecilia Silverthorn, a sister of Elizabeth Rebecca.

FOR RECORD OF ALL THE FAMILY SEE SILVERTHORN TREE.

Keziah married a T. Tisdale. Both are deceased but they have one adopted son at Swift Current, Sask.

George married a Mary A. French. Both are deceased. They had two of a family, Susannah and George Edmund.

Joseph Boyd married a Mary A Howe and later a Jane Conn. His family consisted of Charles, Joseph, James, John, Susannah and Myrtle, all living about thirty mile south of Moose Jaw, Sask.

Susannah Ellen married William J. Stringer both are now deceased but left a family of four, Joseph,(killed in the war), Edward, near Humboldt, Sask., John and Beatrice.

Adam Dickson married Emma Noble and has two sons and one daughter, all living in Orangeville, Ontario.

Joseph Glover,(owned E½, lot 27, Con.4 Ching. 1855-1871) the father of this family was an Orangeman and so were all these boys, namely William John, George, Joseph and Adam.

Re myself.. My father was William John Glover, named above and my mother was Mary Jane Silverthorn. As previously mentioned father's ancestors came direct from Ireland. On my mother's side the Silverthorn family is as follows:

There were three brothers, Oliver, Thomas and John who came out from England in 1735 and settled in Western New Jersey. Oliver remained in New Jersey, John moved south, settling in North Carolina and later returned to England. Thomas is said to have moved to Canada and some of Oliver's sons also moved to Canada. Our descendants moved over as U.E.Loyalists and settled in the Niagara area and later moved into the Brampton-Toronto area where they were granted a two-hundred acre plot as U?E.Loyalists. While I cannot give the exact location of this lot in figures it was just across the road from the old Alloa post office. This remained in the family name until some years ago when sold to other parties. The line of descendants is, Thomas, Jonathon, Mahlon, and Mary Jane who married William John Glover.

In a separate sheet I shall trace this line a little clearer but here I shall branch off for myself. "My father and mother lived first near Brampton and later near Orangeville, Ontario, where I was born. My father was amechanic. In 1889 my father first came west to see the country, remaining for some three months in the Moose Jaw area. The next fall, 1890, he came

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When my father first came out here he was granted a dispensation to organize lodges when the settlements were few and far between, and he did organize several which are going yet. He was a very thorough Orangeman in principle and life and I wish we had many with the same strict sense of what the Organization meant. He had all the Black and enjoyed its work very thoroughly.

I imagine that today we lack leadership in the West, especially of new members and as the older ones slacken in their work the new members are not taking it up with the enthusiasm they should have.

I imagine this is about all that you would require from which you might glean a few facts as otherwise I would have to write a History of the Order which I would like to do if I had the time and data.

Yours fraternally,

GEO. H. GLOVER

HP

Dominion Archives - U.C. Sundries

July - December 1809

Secretary's Office 20th Oct. 1809

Sir

The fees on a patent, or charter of pardon, previous to Lieutenant Governor Hunters remitting them (except 6/0 currency to the secretary of the province) were as follows, viz.

Lieut. Governor	13.10.0	patent fees
Secretary	1. 3.0	
Atty. General	2.0.0	

Messrs. Silverthorn & Conat are both wealthy farmers & can well afford to pay the patent fees on the instruments purporting His Excellency clemency.

I should be glad if you would obtain His Excellency's pleasure in this case & forward it to me by the bearer for my guidance.

I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient servt.

William Stanton Esquire

Wm. Jarvis, Secy.

HP

Dominion Archives - U.C. Sundries

July - December 1809

To His Excellency Francis Gore Esquire Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada &c &c.

The petition of the undersigned Magistrates and inhabitants of the District of Niagara humbly showeth

That most of your petitioners were present at the trial and conviction of John Silverthorn of the Township of Stamford, at the Court of Oyer and Terminer last holden for the said District of Niagara.

That they are impressed with sentiment that said trial and conviction was had upon the stranger's evidence under the most human and tender charge from the presiding Judges and that the convicted had the most fair and impartial trial.

That your petitioners feel a conviction that the solemnity of his trial and the full exposition by the court of the existing laws must have impressed upon every hearer the aggravated crime whereof he stands convicted and cannot fail as effectually to restrain the commission of a like offence as if the sentence of the law were carried into execution.

That the unhappy object of this petition is one of the earliest inhabitants of this colony and

Re John Silverthorn

his
~~the~~ character and conduct precedent to the act for which he has been convicted, has ever been such as to approve him a firm adherent to His Majestys Government, and induce a ready obedience to the laws of his country.

Therefore we His Majestys most dutiful and loyal subjects, humbly beg leave to recommend to your Excellency this unhappy convict, as an object of His Majestys royal mercy and compassion.

J. Muirhead J.P.
Robert Kerr
John Symington
Jas. Crooks
S. Hatt
Thos. Cummings
Robt. Nichol
Will Crooks
Amos Chapman
Jas. Coffin
? Powell
? Butler Jr.
Thos. Butler
P. Ball J.P.
John Ball
Ralfe Clench
Colonel Militia (?)

John Muirhead
Johnson Butler
Alex[r] Stewart
John McDane
William M. Kerr
John Clark
Daniel Secord
William Chisholm
A. Cameron
Geo. Hamilton
Thomas Clark
John McKerlie
Calvin Banister
William Robertson
James Racey
Jno.(?) McCormick
Wm. Gilkison

James Cooper
John Reilly
Benjamin Corwin
Adam Spencer(?)
Peter Wright
Jonathan Dean
John J. Lafferty
Isaac Swayze
Wm. J. Kerr

Re John Silverthorn

The King vs. Silverthorn

The petit jury in finding a verdict in this case are governed by the evidence before them, but being all of them personally acquainted with the prisoner and some of them from his youth to this time, beg leave to state to the court that his demeanor thro' life has been peaceable with this one exception - That he is an honest man and has by his industry and frugality acquired a handsome property - He has a large family who are deeply interested in his fate - The jurors, therefore, separating his general conduct from the substance of the evidence given against him in this case beg leave to recommend him to the mercy of the court.-

S. Street Jr.
Abraham Bowman
Arch. Thompson
Chas. Willson
John Thompson
Ebenezer Skinner
Thos. Cooper
Adam Bowman
Aaron Crane
John Knox
John Burch
Adam Hatt

Niagara
September 29th 1809

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HP

Dominion Archives - U.C. Sundries

July - December 1809

Niagara 2nd November 1807

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 23th ultimo and in obedience to your request state to you for the information of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor that I know of no fees whatever having been applied for to John Silverthorn or paid by him or any other on his account -

I am from the tenor of your letter induced to believe it may have been insinuated that I exacted fees from him and if such has been reported by any person let me assure you Sir, it is wholly unfounded.

I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient servant.

Major Halton
York

Thos. Merritt Sheriff
District of Niagara

From - Mr. J. Hayes Jenkinson - Miss Dora Royce,

Rossville (Indiana) News - Friday, 16 Sept. 1921.

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MER

New Material

Used

SILVERTHORN REUNION, AUGUST 27

On Saturday, August 27th, the sixth annual reunion of the Silverthorn family was held at the T. P. A. park, Frankfort, Ind. There were about 75 persons present, and everyone reported a most pleasant time. Those present from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. John Silverthorn, Scotland, Ontario; Mrs. James Barrett, Mrs. Emil Buroker and niece, Bettie Kitchen, of West Liberty, Ohio; Dr. Frank Silverthorn and Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Silverthorn, of Indiana Harbor, Ind; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Silverthorn and son John, of Richwood, Ohio; Mrs. Della Hudson and son Roy, of Mt. Union, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Silverthorn and son Robert, of Covington, Ind.

The noon hour was happily spent in enjoying a bounteous repast and jesting in Silverthorn fashion. At this time the crest was passed around and all were very much interested in it.

In the afternoon Richard Silverthorn, who returned in March from his work as a missionary in Malaysa, told of his travels and his work in this far-away land. He and his wife also showed some curios which they brought home with them.

Officers were elected as follows: Charles Silverthorn, Rossville, president; U. P. Silverthorn, Rossville, secretary; R. H. Silverthorn, Covington, treasurer.

The history of the Silverthorn family has been traced

back to 1327. The name is supposed to have been given to an English yeoman who lived with his family beside a thorn tree with silver-colored leaves. The two oldest families so far mentioned in English records are Roger and Richardo Silverthorn, who in 1327 resided in the parish of Hemington, county of Somerset. Some of the Silverthorn family held offices in the Steeple Ashton church. The records of 1618 mention gifts of money from William Silverthorn for the poor of the parish. Three Silverthorn brothers, James, John and George, were companions in boyhood to their cousin, Robert Browning. James Silverthorn, the eldest, was the only friend at Browning's marriage to Elizabeth Barrett in 1846 and his death is spoken of in Browning's "May and Death".

The founder of the Silverthorn family in America was Oliver Silverthorn, who came to America some time after 1700. From this line some have settled in Pennsylvania, Canada, New Jersey, California, Indiana and other states.

The reunion of 1921 will long be remembered and all look forward with pleasure to the reunions of coming years.